(b) Currently, Phase-I of the Modernization of observation and forecast facility of IMD alongwith other institutions of this Ministry is under implementation with a total cost of Rs. 920 crores in 2-years of the XI-Plan. Focusing on strengthening of the existing observational network with expansion, improving the forecasting methodology and quick dissemination of weather forecast assessments/warnings to the users, a comprehensive modernization programme is taken up with the following components:

* Procurement of high performance computers for forecasting
* Enhancement of observation systems including Automated Rain Gauges (ARG), Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), improved Radiosonde systems for upper level data, acquisition of Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) etc.

The modernisation plan observation and forecast systems are expected to produce high quality forecasts with improved monitoring capabilities to meet fully the multi-sector user requirements including the farming community.

(c) The successful implementation of the modernization plan is expected to enhance the quality of short range (1-3 days) and medium range (3-7 days) forecasts in the country. Such forecasts will lead to the operation of high quality services to the farming community.

Earthquake Observatory at Bhopal

†2068. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the earthquake observatory established at Bhopal has devised means to disseminate required information on tsunami and earthquake through Real Time Seismic Monitoring Network (RTSMN) machine;

(b) the places where the said machine has been installed in the country;

(c) the amount required thereon each year; and

(d) the places where it is proposed to be installed in Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The seismological observatory established at Bhopal is part of the national network. This national network assists in monitoring the earthquakes in near real time both within and vicinity of the country. Such national network functions in partnership with other networks in the region for Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning so as to accurately locate earthquakes occurring over Indian Ocean basin that are capable of generating tsunami waves especially over Indonesia-Andaman & Nicobar-Myanmar in the Bay of Bengal segment and over the Makran coast over the Arabian Sea segment.

(b) The RTSMN consists of 17 field stations spread over the country located respectively at Bhopal, Bhuj, Chennai, Bokaro, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Visakhapatnam, Shillong, Goa, Dehradun, Shimla, Portblair, Diglipur, Campbell Bay, Minicoy, Dharmasala and Hyderabad.

(c) The recurring cost of RTSMN operations and maintenance will be of the order of Rs. 70 lakhs per annum.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) A proposal to expand the network is under preparation with optimal station density distribution for detecting low magnitude earthquakes within the country.

Shanti Sena activities in Jharkhand

2069. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Shanti Sena activities in Jharkhand;

(b) whether it is a fact that almost all Shanti Sena activists are non-tribals;

(c) it is alleged that a large number of Shanti Sena activists are given licensed weapons and under the garb of containing Naxal activities, they murder the local tribals; and

(d) the steps being proposed to protect tribals from being harassed and exploited by non-tribals in the name of protecting civilians under such outfits like Shanti Sena?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) This information is not Centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) 'Police' and 'public order' being State subjects, action with respect to maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments, who deal with the various issues related to naxalite activities in the States. The Central Government also closely monitors the situation and supplements their efforts and resources through various measures.

Cases related to criminal activities are registered, investigated and prosecuted by the concerned State Government.

Government of India is committed to, and has been taking a variety of measures for, protection and all-round development of tribals and tribal areas.

Discrimination in the disbursement of aid to victims of Malegaon

2070. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that victims of Malegaon blast in Maharashtra have alleged discrimination in the disbursement of aid to them *vis-a-vis* the aid given to the victims of the recent train blast in Mumbai;

(b) whether Government has looked into the complaints of discrimination; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Compensation/*ex-gratia* is paid by various States Governments in accordance with their policies. As per available information, the State Government of Maharashtra had announced *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. One lakh to the next of-kin of those killed and Rs. 50,000/- to those with major injuries in both the incidents *i.e.* Mumbai local trains bomb blasts case as well as in Malegaon bomb blast case. In addition compensation has also been paid by the Railways to the victims of the train blasts in accordance with their Rules/Policy.

Upgrading land customs stations into integrated check posts along India's Border

2071. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has decided to fund the entire Rs. 853 crore project involving upgrading